

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 /084 W
----- 129564

R 041018Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8138

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1533

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GB RP

SUBJECT: GABON AND THE PHILIPPINES

REF: LIBREVILLE 1412

1. DEVELOPMENT OF GABONESE-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS MOVING RAPIDLY IN WAKE BONGO VISIT EARLIER THIS MONTH TO MANILA. FROM PHILIPPINE SIDE, TECHNICAL DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE JULY 23 AND HAS BEEN TOURING COUNTRY SINCE TO EXAMINE DETAILS OF PROMISED PHILIPPINE HELP IN HEALTH FIELD AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. TALK THUS FAR HAS CENTERED ON PREVIOUSLY-PLEDGED REGIONAL HOSPITALS AND TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR PARAMEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND ON FACTORIES FOR COCOA PROCESSING (AT OYEM) AND FOR MANUFACTURE OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING (AT TCHIBANGA). NO INDICATION THAT ANY AGREEMENTS YET SIGNED.

2. GABONESE QUID PRO QUO IS EVIDENTLY TAKING FORM OF INTENSIVE LOBBYING FOR PHILIPPINE OBSERVER STATUS AT FORTHCOMING COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, SPATE OF SPECIAL MESSENGERS SENT BY BONGO TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN PAST WEEK (INCLUDING FONMIN TOUR OF AF/C, SECSTATE FOR INTERIOR TO AF/W, AND OTHER ENVOYS TO
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NEA/AFN STATES) HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON THIS ISSUE,

BARING PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM BONGO TO FELLOW CHIEFS OF
STATE URGING THEIR SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINE PRESENCE.
ADDRESSEE REACTIONS NOT YET KNOWN AS MESSENGERS JUST
TRICKLING HOME, BUT WILL REPORT FURTHER AS INFORMATION
BECOMES AVAILABLE. STEIGMAN

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NNN

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